

Spring 1-15-2005

ENG 3001-008: Advanced composition

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Policies: English 3001 Section 08: Advanced Composition, Spring 2005**Instructor:** Dr. Ray Watkins**Class Times:** Monday and Wednesday 3 to 4:15**Location:** Coleman 3120, Computer Room, and 3130, Lecture Room**Note:** We will alternate between the Computer Room (CH 3120) and the Lecture Room (3130). See your Syllabus for more details.**Office:** Coleman 339 K/3010**Office Hours:** MWF, 1 to 1:50**Email address:** jrwatkins@eiu.edu**Textbook:** *Here's How to Write Well*, McMahan/Funk

Goals: English 3001 is an advanced composition course that will enhance your understanding of academic and professional writing and practice in producing both. Our subject matter is the world of work, and the place of writing and ideas in the modern workplace. As an advanced course in writing, we will necessarily focus on honing your editorial and copy-editing expertise.

Our goals include the refinement of skills in the following areas:

- 1. Using bibliographic and field research** -- improve your knowledge of how libraries work and how to use them; improve your knowledge to go out into the world and collect information relevant to your interests as a researcher.
- 2. Critical reading**-- improve your ability to read critically, to question, and to evaluate what you read. In order to be a more critical reader have to participate in what you are reading, actively deciphering the argument in all its parts rather than passively receiving strings of words.
- 3. Constructing arguments** -- improve your ability to construct your own arguments. This skill depends on your mastery of critical reading, as we have described it above. The better reader you are, the better writer you can be. Again, one of our aims is to learn to distinguish between opinion and a reasoned argument based on carefully constructed texts, evidence, and so on.
- 4. Collaborative learning** -- improve your ability to learn from and to teach others about your own thinking and about writing. Much of your learning in this course will depend on the process of drafting and peer critiques. You will practice forming honest, thorough, and constructive critiques of your writing as well as your peers' writing, and how to make use of what you have learned from your own self-critique and that of others.
- 5. Clean, smart prose**-- improve your ability to write clear and meaningful sentences, to compose organized and developed paragraphs, identify and address recurring grammatical or mechanical problems specific to your own writing (these vary from writer to writer).
- 6. Technology**--- prose writing has become much more technologically sophisticated in recent years, and you will be expected to learn and utilize a wide range of software now routine in professional writing. Primarily, this will center on the creation of an online portfolio of your work, built step by step over the course of the semester. Also important will be electronic mail, as well as word processing software.

Major Writing Assignments:

A. The primary task of our course is called the Writing in the Wild research project. This project includes several important writing assignments including but not limited to: